

*Contact Jim Hubbard
(202) 225-2671*

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) urges U.S. House of Representatives' colleagues to support broad public investment to create millions of jobs and get the nation's economy back on track.

Congressman Carnahan led bipartisan efforts in the House to push for investment in water infrastructure and high-performance buildings by leading two letters with his colleagues to gain a broad base of support before presenting it to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In addition, Congressman Carnahan signed onto multiple letters to House leadership expressing his support of increased investment in renewable energy, public transit, drinking water infrastructure, economic development, and school meal programs all designed to create jobs and help those struggling to make ends meet.

President-elect Barack Obama has embraced a similar approach in past statements and weekly addresses to the nation. Congress is working with President-elect Obama's transition to create fiscally responsible legislation that would create and save 3 million jobs in the next 2 years – and make the economy stronger in the long run.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers for every \$1 billion invested in navigation or ecosystem restoration 30,000 to 35,000 jobs would be created. Funding supported by Congressman Carnahan for the Upper Mississippi River System would permit the Corps to accelerate existing contracts for both navigation and ecosystem restoration projects, creating thousands of immediate construction jobs for carpenters, electricians, pile drivers, operating engineers, laborers, iron workers, cement masons, and many other skilled trades.

Investing in lock and dam modernization will contribute substantially to job creation and economic revitalization in the near-term and lay the groundwork for long-term sustained economic growth.

Carnahan has also pushed for an investment of \$10 billion in drinking water infrastructure investment that would create an estimated 407,000 jobs and protect the health and safety of 's drinking water systems.

“This is an historic opportunity for change,” said Congressman Carnahan. **“I believe our top priority is to rebuild our economy to put people back to work by investing in 's water infrastructure and public buildings.”**

The construction industry employs an estimated 10 million workers. During these challenging economic times, the growth potential for new high-performance building projects and retrofits can generate millions of jobs in the construction industry. Homes, office, schools, and other buildings consume 70 percent of the electricity in the and emit 39 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions.

“Implementing high-performance green building principles to new construction and retrofitting existing structures can have an immediate impact on decreasing our nation’s carbon foot print while creating millions of jobs,” said Carnahan.

High-performance green buildings have a dual role both in terms of immediate job creation for the construction of new buildings and retrofitting existing structures, as well as directly addressing the environmental impact that our built environment has on global climate change.

Carnahan serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. In 2008 he co-founded the Congressional High Performance Buildings Caucus.